

**House File 577 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 577

BY SCHOLTEN and KAUFMANN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to baseball broadcasting blackouts.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 477A.13 Baseball broadcasting  
2 blackout — prohibition.

3 1. For purposes of this section, “blackout” means the  
4 nonairing of a cable, video, or satellite sporting event  
5 broadcast on a local broadcast station.

6 2. For purposes of this section, “sports broadcasting  
7 entity” means and includes all of the following:

8 a. An internet-based streaming platform with over two and a  
9 one-half million subscribers that allows for the live viewing  
10 of official major league baseball broadcasts.

11 b. A person providing cable service or video service in this  
12 state.

13 3. A sports broadcasting entity shall be prohibited from  
14 preventing major league baseball broadcasting through a  
15 blackout to paying customers of the sports broadcasting entity.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation’s substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill relates to baseball broadcasting blackouts.

20 The bill defines “blackout” to mean the nonairing of a cable,  
21 video, or satellite sporting event that is broadcast on a local  
22 broadcast station. The bill defines “sports broadcasting  
23 entity” to mean and include specified internet-based streaming  
24 platforms and a person providing cable service or video service  
25 in Iowa. The bill prohibits a sports broadcasting entity  
26 from preventing major league baseball broadcasting through a  
27 blackout to paying customers.